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FM AIT TAIPEI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1646
INFO RUEHOO/CHINA POSTS COLLECTIVE
RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4638
RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHDC
RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA
RHMFIUU/HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC
RUEHRC/USDA FAS WASHDC 2739

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TAIPEI 000626

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE PASS OES/IHA, OES/IHB FOR AMB LOFTIS, HHS FOR MARK
ABDOO, CDC ATLANTA FOR CCID, BANGKOK FOR CDC BAGGETT,
USDA/FAS FOR OFSO/WAINIO OSTA/HAMILTON, OCRA/BEILLARD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS:

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SUBJECT: TAIWAN CONFIRMS NINE CASES OF H1N1 FLU

REF: TAIPEI 622 AND PREVIOUS

¶1. (SBU) SUMMARY. Taiwan health officials have confirmed 9 cases of the H1N1 virus to date, including a case of locally contracted H1N1 virus. Because of this first case of local contagion, authorities have upgraded Taiwan from a pandemic alert level of "Yellow 2" to "Yellow 3". Of the 9 individuals who have contracted H1N1, the first has already completed treatment and was released from the hospital, while the remaining 8 cases are still being treated. Department of Health (DOH) Minister Yeh Ching-chuan canceled plans to accompany President Ma to Central America and will instead remain in Taiwan to address the H1N1 situation. More Tamiflu dosages are being ordered in preparation for a potential H1N1 outbreak in the Fall. END SUMMARY.

EIGHT NEW H1N1 CASES WITHIN A WEEK

¶2. (SBU) Taiwan identified its first H1N1 case on May 20 (reftel), and the tally has now increased to 9 cases. Although the first H1N1 patient has recovered and left the hospital May 23, the increase in cases has alarmed local authorities, who had not expected such a rapid increase in cases. On May 22, the sixth case was confirmed, contracted by the daughter of case number four, (reftel) who flew to Taiwan from Manila on May 20. The seventh case is the first confirmed case of local contagion, a 40-year-old female who attended a dinner at the home of case number four. Cases eight and nine belong to Taiwan students returning from the U.S. who took EVA airlines flight BR 007 from San Francisco on May 23 and arrived at Taipei's Taoyuan Airport on May 24. The two developed a fever on May 19-20. Upon arrival, the airport temperature sensors did not detect them since their fever had subsided. However, an alert taxi driver took them to Taoyuan General Hospital when they described their condition. The two were subsequently diagnosed as H1N1 positive.

MORE H1N1 FROM RETURNING STUDENTS LIKELY

¶3. (SBU) The Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) at Taiwan's CDC warned that as long as the outbreaks in the U.S. and Canada continue, with the onset of summer vacations, the increasing number of students returning to Taiwan will likely bring a rise in H1N1 cases. H1N1 case number 6 (see par. 2)

attended school following her return from the Philippines,
and Taipei County ordered her Yungho Township school shut for
a week starting May 23.

TAIWAN IN SEPARATE WHO TALLY OF H1N1 CASES

14. (SBU) DOH Minister Yeh also said on May 25 that the WHO
website listed Taiwan H1N1 cases separately from those of the
PRC under the name "Chinese Taipei", a format which is
acceptable to Taiwan. WHO previously listed Taiwan data
under the PRC's, and Taiwan stopped providing data until this
was changed. Yeh cancelled his trip plans to Central America
with President Ma in response to the growing H1N1 threat.

MORE TAMIFLU AVAILABILITY

15. (SBU) DOH Minister Yeh also said Taiwan will procure raw
materials worth NT\$ 600 million (\$18 million) to manufacture
1 million doses of Tamiflu. DOH is also preparing to stock
10 million doses of Tamiflu, 2.5 million of which will be
bought from overseas and the rest manufactured domestically.
Yeh claimed the drugs could be ready by October if needed to
counter a Fall return of the H1N1 virus.

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